

Friends of the Smyrna Library and its outstanding president.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TEMPLE SHOMER EMUNIM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Temple Shomer Emunim in Sylvania Ohio. The congregation commemorated this most auspicious occasion in special services and celebration on June 2 and 3, 2000.

In 1870, there were about 30 Jewish families in Toledo, Ohio, most of whom were Orthodox. A small number of these families sought a more liberal practice of their faith and organized a Reform congregation. Those early services were held in homes and conducted by visiting rabbis. The band of families practicing in the Reform movement formally established a Temple in 1875 and the congregation was dedicated as Shomer Emunim-Guardian of the Faithful. This name was suggested by Rabbi Isaac Wise, founder of America's Reform Judaism and is taken from Isaiah 26:2, "Open ye gates that there shall be a righteous nation-guardian of the faithful . . ."

In those first years, the congregation worshipped in a small church rented from a Christian congregation. In 1879, it was decided the grand sum of \$12,500.00 would be raised in order to build their own sanctuary. With Toledo's Jewish population at the time settled in a downtown neighborhood, a small building was built on Tenth Street in downtown Toledo where the congregation remained for 23 years. The original Temple was formally dedicated by Rabbi Wise. As Toledo's Jewish community grew, the congregation moved to a larger building on Scottwood Avenue which was previously owned by a Methodist congregation. By 1916, the congregation had outgrown that building, and a new major synagogue was built on Collingwood Avenue. Nearly 100 years after its first quiet beginnings and as its members moved to the suburbs, the congregation built a new synagogue in suburban Sylvania in 1973, where the Temple remains and has flourished, an integral part of the community. It is affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the national organization of Reform Judaism.

For a century and a quarter, the Temple Shomer Emunim has been a fixture of life in Toledo's Jewish community, and our community as a whole. It has been a place to develop spiritual well-being and personal growth, and strengthen the bonds of family and faith. Its rabbis and members have stood as leaders among us, and have provided both guidance and wise counsel. As we reflect on more than a century of growth from its humble inception to its current prominence, we look forward to the future of Temple Shomer Emunim. Mozel Tov!

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF "TEACHERS ON AN
AGRISCIENCE BUS" IN FURTHERING AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
JUNE 7, 2000

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that agriculture is of primary importance to the economy of the State of Illinois. Our more than 76,000 farms cover about 80 percent of Illinois' land and generate more than \$9 billion annually for our economy.

While rows of corn have turned into rows of homes in DuPage County, my home county, we have not forgotten the importance of agriculture.

For the past ten years, the "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus" program has provided the youth of Illinois with current, up-to-date, technological information in the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives and of the vast array of career opportunities available to them in the agriculture industry.

When the first "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus" was first sponsored by the Illinois Pork Producers Association in 1991, who could have predicted that it would be so enthusiastically received that nearly 400 teachers, school administrators, and counselors would participate? Those 400 individuals, in turn, provided an estimated 45,000 elementary through high school students with new experiences and background in the field of today's agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, although Illinois' food and fiber industry employs nearly one million people, the number of farm operators has dropped from 164,000 in 1959 to 76,000 today. And most farmers in Illinois are more than 50 years old.

Who will take their place?

The "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus" program hopes to answer that question. By making suburban children aware of the numerous opportunities available to them in agriculture and by making them more aware of the field in general, the program helps ensure that our country's agriculture economy remains strong.

As the "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus" program celebrates its tenth year in existence, we should recognize its foresight and contributions to agriculture education and we should renew our emphasis on agricultural education among our nation's educators and youth.

Agriculture was and is the backbone of our country's economy. Programs such as "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus" will help keep it that way. And for that, we should be thankful.

June 8, 2000

WELLTON-MOHAWK TRANSFER
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 356, the Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act.

Mr. Speaker, S. 356 would transfer the title of the Gila Project from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District. This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities of the Gila Project in Arizona to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. The Secretary will convey the facilities under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the District dated July 10, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, the Gila Project began in 1936, with the first drop of water made available on the Gila Gravity Main Canal on November 4, 1943. Construction of the Wellton-Mohawk Division was started in August 1949, and the first delivery of Colorado River water on Wellton Mohawk fields was made on May 1, 1952. Throughout the years, the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District has clearly demonstrated their commitment to the Gila Project and the current operation of the Gila Project will not change with the final passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, S. 356 is an excellent bill because it demonstrates Congress' commitment to moving title transfer legislation and Congress' commitment to defederalizing Bureau of Reclamation projects. I would like to commend the hard work of my Arizona colleagues, as well as Chairman Doolittle, and particularly the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I support full passage of S. 356.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL BEARD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Mrs. Cheryl Beard. Ten years ago Cheryl lost her only child, Jeff Bosie, to a drunken driver. At the time of his death, Jeff was a 17-year-old senior at Rochester High School in Rochester, IL.

As a result of this tragedy, Cheryl used her anger and her energy to combat drunken driving and underage drinking. She has been named a "Difference Maker" as part of Mothers Against Drunk Driving's 20th anniversary campaign. Cheryl became involved with MADD in 1990 and has been the Sangamon County chapter president six times.

She is being honored for her volunteer efforts in public speaking, victim impact panels, victim assistance, legislation and public awareness campaigns. I want to thank Cheryl for making a difference in the lives of so many people.